

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF

Request for Observer Status

The following communication, dated 13 January 1986, has been received from the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) is a regional organization. Its members are the United Arab Emirates, the State of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait. Its objectives are set out in article four of its charter of which I enclose a copy.

Based on these objectives the member states have adopted the Unified Economic agreement, a copy of which is being enclosed.

Article 2 of the Unified Economic agreement sets out a free trade area among GCC member states while article 4 sets out a custom union.

In article 7 the members of GCC commit themselves to coordinate their commercial policies and relations with other countries and regional economic groupings and blocs. This requires, among other things, following more closely the work of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade "GATT".

Therefore, GCC would like to be admitted as an observer organization to meetings of the Council and the Sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

I would appreciate if the matter could be given favourable consideration.

¹ Copy available for consultation in the Secretariat (office 3012).